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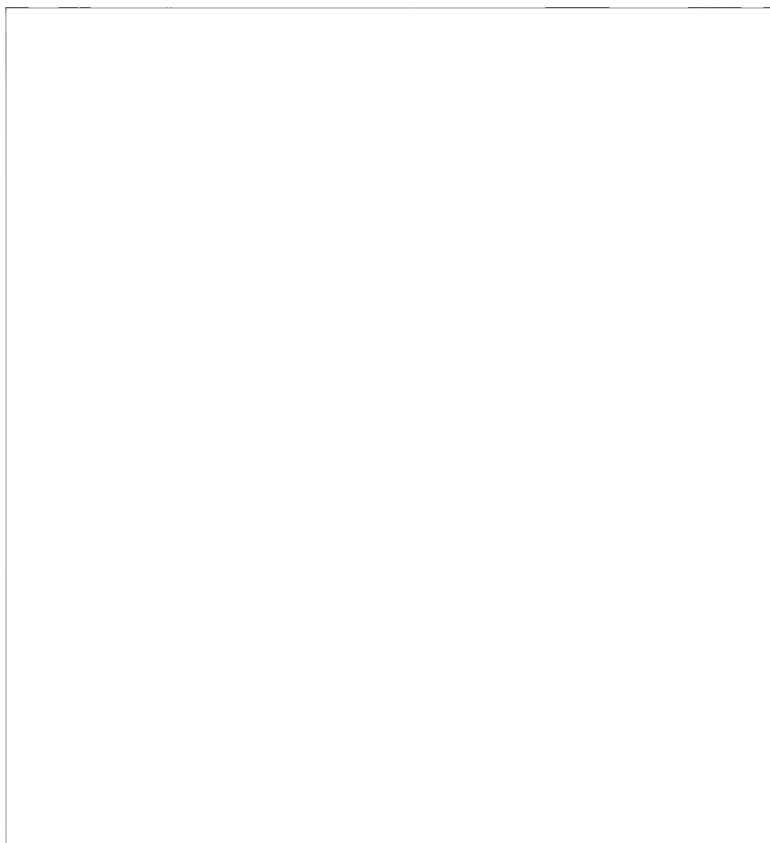
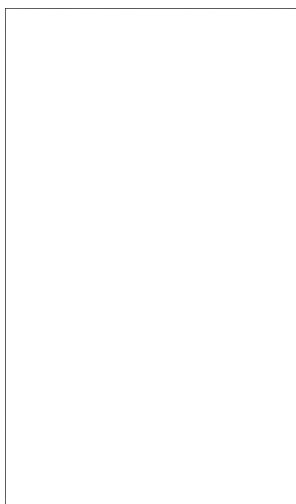
THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

21 AUGUST 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Israel-Syria

a. Tension is growing in Israel amidst the repeated Syrian and Israeli charges and countercharges of border attacks.



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2. Finland-USSR

a. Ambassador Rowan has been told categorically by Max Jakobson, Chief of Finnish Foreign Office political section, that Finland is not negotiating with the USSR for the purchase of any type of Soviet missiles.

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b. Jakobson also told Rowan that a written guarantee has been given to the British that at least half of any surface-to-air missiles purchased by Helsinki would be bought from them. Jakobson added that Kekkonen had told MacMillan Finland was interested in Bloodhound I, but was short of money.

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3. South Vietnam

a. Diem's regime seems determined to repress forcefully the rising Buddhist agitation, despite strong advice from US representatives and an urgent plea from Saigon's ambassador to Washington.

b. Police and army personnel raided Buddhist pagodas in Saigon and Hue yesterday using arms, grenades and tear gas.

c. A number of Buddhists were reported killed and wounded, and many others were arrested. The fate of key Buddhist leaders is not yet known.

d. Martial law has been declared throughout the country

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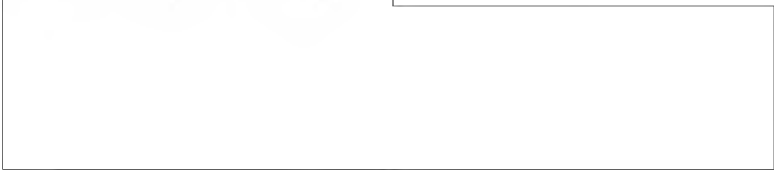

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For The President Only - Top Secret

e. These harsh measures may only serve to further alienate the Vietnamese public and will further damage Diem's image throughout the world.

f. Some senior Vietnamese officers may have agreed with this action as necessary to prevent the spread of unrest.



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4. Cuba



a. Yesterday's Cuban government communique concerning Sunday night's raid on industrial installations may signal a sharper propaganda campaign against the US and possibly a new offensive in the UN.

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b. Havana blamed the raid on the US government and claimed this was proof of a US plan of aggression. World opinion was warned of "the danger that this policy entails for peace less than a year after the October crisis."

(Cont'd)

c. The communique also accused the US of taking advantage of the more relaxed "international situation" resulting from the test ban treaty and warned the US against underestimating the "solidarity of the Soviet Union" toward Cuba.

d. Havana again demanded that the US accept Castro's "Five Points." The reference to the "Five Points" in this context suggests that the Cuban government may be considering an appeal to the UN.

NOTE

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Communist China - Burma Peiping has proposed Keng
Plao, one of its vice foreign ministers and a career
diplomat, as its new ambassador to Rangoon.

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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